

REMARKS

Pending Claims

Claims 23 and 30 have been amended. Claim 30 has been amended to put it independent form. Accordingly, claims 21-46 are currently pending.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and receipt of the priority document.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the Information Disclosure Statements filed on August 19, 2003 and November 30, 2004.

35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 23 has been amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection.

35 USC § 102

Claims 21-29, and 311-46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ninomiya, U.S. Patent No. 5,764,968. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action states that Ninomiya discloses a second main memory that is able to be hot plugged. See the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action, with respect to the rejection of claim 21, for example. Applicants disagree with this assertion. The main memory 13 of Ninomiya "comprises a system memory 131 and an expanded memory 132 mounted by the user as needed." See col. 2, lines 37-38 and col. 4, lines 25-26 of the reference. Therefore, the reference does not specifically disclose or suggest main memory or second main memory to be hot-added, hot plugged or hot inserted, as required by each of the independent claims.

Rather, the Office Action cites another memory disclosed in Ninomiya, presumably that of a PC card, etc. (not the expanded memory 132) that would be connected through card dock 40 as "part of main memory" that "is able to be hot plugged." The memory of a PC card, etc. and the main memory or second

main memory claimed by Applicants are not equivalent. In particular, the reference states that the card dock 40 is an expansion unit and is connected to the docking connector 10 of the computer main body (col. 8, lines 46-48 of Ninomiya). The PCI-DS (Peripheral Component Interconnect-Docking Station) bridge unit 18 is used as an interface between the internal PCI bus 2 and the docking station 30 or card dock 40. Therefore, any memory connected through the docking station or card dock is not main memory, even though it may be hot added.

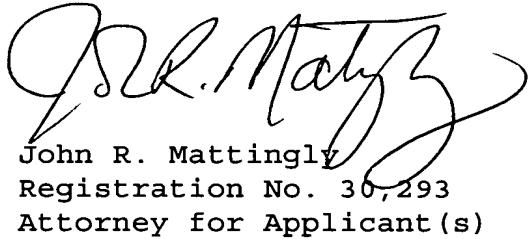
The EEPROM 34 (for docking station 30) or EEPROM 43 (for card dock 40) of Ninomiya is relied upon in the Office Action for disclosing the claimed non-volatile storage that stores memory size information of the (second) main memory to be hot plugged. It does not store such information. EEPROM 34 or 43 stores information about the device to be added to the expansion slot of the docking station or the card reader, such as a PC card, etc. The information stored in the EEPROM 34 or 43 is not related to the expanded memory 132 of Ninomiya that is relied upon in the Office Action as the (second) main memory claimed by Applicants in claims 21, 26, 32 and 41.

In view of the foregoing, claims 21-29 and 31-46 are not anticipated by Ninomiya. Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



John R. Mattingly
Registration No. 30,293
Attorney for Applicant(s)

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR, & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.
1800 Diagonal Rd., Suite 370
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1120
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